

New York, 23 June, 1864.

My Dear Garrison,

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Your letter giving an account of the meeting of the Executive Committee, I hardly need say, afforded me great relief. Your previous letter alarmed me not a little, leading me, as it did, to fear that the Committee would take some action placing me under restraint for the future and censuring me for ~~the~~<sup>my</sup> past course. The course they took was perfectly satisfactory to me. I need not say to you that I have no wish or intention to make the Standard the partizan of Lincoln. The charge that I have done so is a transparent absurdity. Of course I recognize the wisdom and the necessity of



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more than ordinary circumspection on  
my part in view of the divided  
state of opinion and feeling in the  
Society. I should despise myself if  
I were capable of taking any unfair  
advantage of my position, <sup>needlessly</sup> to annoy  
or distress those who differ from  
me. I think I know how to be not  
only just but magnanimous, and  
certainly it is my honest purpose  
to exercise these virtues. But I  
foresee that it <sup>will be</sup> impossible for me  
to conduct the Standard in such  
a way as to please, or even to avoid  
giving offence to, Mr. Phillips and  
the partisans of Fremont. What they  
really want is, that the paper should  
advocate Fremont's claims, or at least  
fight Lincoln for his benefit.



I believe I was rightly guided in what I wrote about the Cleveland movement last week. The exposure I made was needed to save not a few honest people from being deceived. It was the truth of what I said that cut. If it were possible to make even a plausible defence of Fremont, Mr. Phillips, instead of waxing wroth over my article, would set himself to the task of answering it. It is well that the issue was ~~thus~~ made ~~this~~ early before the Committee.

I am deeply pained by what I hear of Mr. Phillips's state of mind. Whipple and May give me substantially the same report that you do in regard to his excited condition. It is indeed lamentable that he should thus become the partisan of Fremont in his efforts



to win support from the Copperhead  
Democracy. The consequences to himself  
will be fearful, depend upon it, if he  
does not switch off from the track on  
which he has entered. The Cleveland  
movement is <sup>utterly</sup> destitute of any moral  
vitality. Copperhead money is being used  
here to galvanize it into an appearance  
of life, but the effort will fail. Edgar  
Ketchum told a friend of mine yester-  
day that in his Ward a Fremont  
and Cochrane meeting had been  
held in the ~~is the~~ identically grog  
shop from which issued the mob  
that attempted to burn his house  
during the riots last summer, and  
that it was actually addressed by the  
same men that exhorted the mob  
to their diabolical work!! If ever  
a ratification meeting of the party is  
held here, it will be composed of



Coppersheads hired for the occasion!  
To think of Wendell Phillips lending  
himself to such a movement!

I have written Mr. Phillips a  
letter, of which I will send you a  
copy with this. Of course you will  
use it discreetly. I send it because  
I want you to understand my  
position perfectly.

A note from Charles Whipple,  
received yesterday, contains this ~~a~~ pas-  
sage: "I regret that the matters rela-  
ting to the Cleveland Convention were  
not published more promptly, as part  
of the struggle and history of the time,  
at least bearing a relation to anti-slavery,  
if not included in it. Office-complica-  
tions might fairly account for their  
postponement one week, but two  
creates the suspicion of an unfriendly



animus, and an uncandid administration." From the connection in which this passage stands in Mr. Whipple's letter, I am led to infer, or at least to conjecture, that it was rewritten in consequence of complaints made to the Committee by Mr. Phillips. However this may be, the charge has not a particle of foundation. I appeal to the record.

In the first place, in regard to the call of the <sup>Cleveland</sup> Convention: It arrested my attention just before our Anniversary, and I at once sent it to the office as "copy." Herrington's report of ~~the~~ our morning meeting, however, crowded it out that week, in common with a good deal of other matter, for which I hoped to find room. In getting in the complete report of the Anniversary



very meeting the same week ~~the~~ in  
which it was held (the first time in the  
history of the Society that it was ever  
done), I thought I had ~~done~~ achieved  
something for which our friends gen-  
erally would give me thanks. I cer-  
tainly had their pleasure in view,  
and in so doing put myself to and  
the printers to a good deal of trouble.  
But Mr. Phillips was greatly dissatis-  
fied; he thought the Cleveland call  
should have taken precedence of  
the report! The question is one which  
I should be quite willing to submit to  
a vote of the readers of the Standard,  
or of the Executive Committee. The  
call was duly set forth, not without  
considerable inconvenience, owing to the  
pressure of anniversary reports, in  
the paper next following the one above  
alluded to.



Next in regard to the proceedings of the Convention, which appeared among the telegrams in the daily papers of New York on Wednesday morning, June 1, the morning that we started for Longwood. Now I had filled the columns of the Standard for that week on Tuesday night, and taken leave of the printer, expecting not to see him again before starting; but when I saw the report of that Convention in the morning papers, I went to the office, where you found me, and spent not less than an hour of precious time before breakfast in condensing them for the Standard of that very week, in which they appeared accordingly, including the platform in full.

The letters of Fremont and Coghane appeared while I was at Longwood, and when I reached home, I found the paper for June 11 so full that I could not make room for them without



postponing ~~part to make~~ the proceedings of the  
 Baltimore Convention. Besides, I wanted  
 time to examine carefully and com-  
 ment upon the letters. I therefore  
 postponed them, not ~~for~~ two weeks  
 but one, and the same paper  
 in which they appeared (that of last  
 week, June 18) contained in full, for  
 the second time, the platform made  
 at Cleveland! These are the precise,  
 literal facts, and Mr. Phillips, if he  
 made any complaint of me on this  
 score, had not a peg to stand on. It  
 seems a waste of time for me to  
 write all this to you, but I wanted  
 you to see how utterly unreasonable  
 Mr. Phillips is, and how careless, if  
 not reckless, in his statements.

Well, I have written you a  
 pretty long yarn, and I don't know  
 but you will think yourself bored.

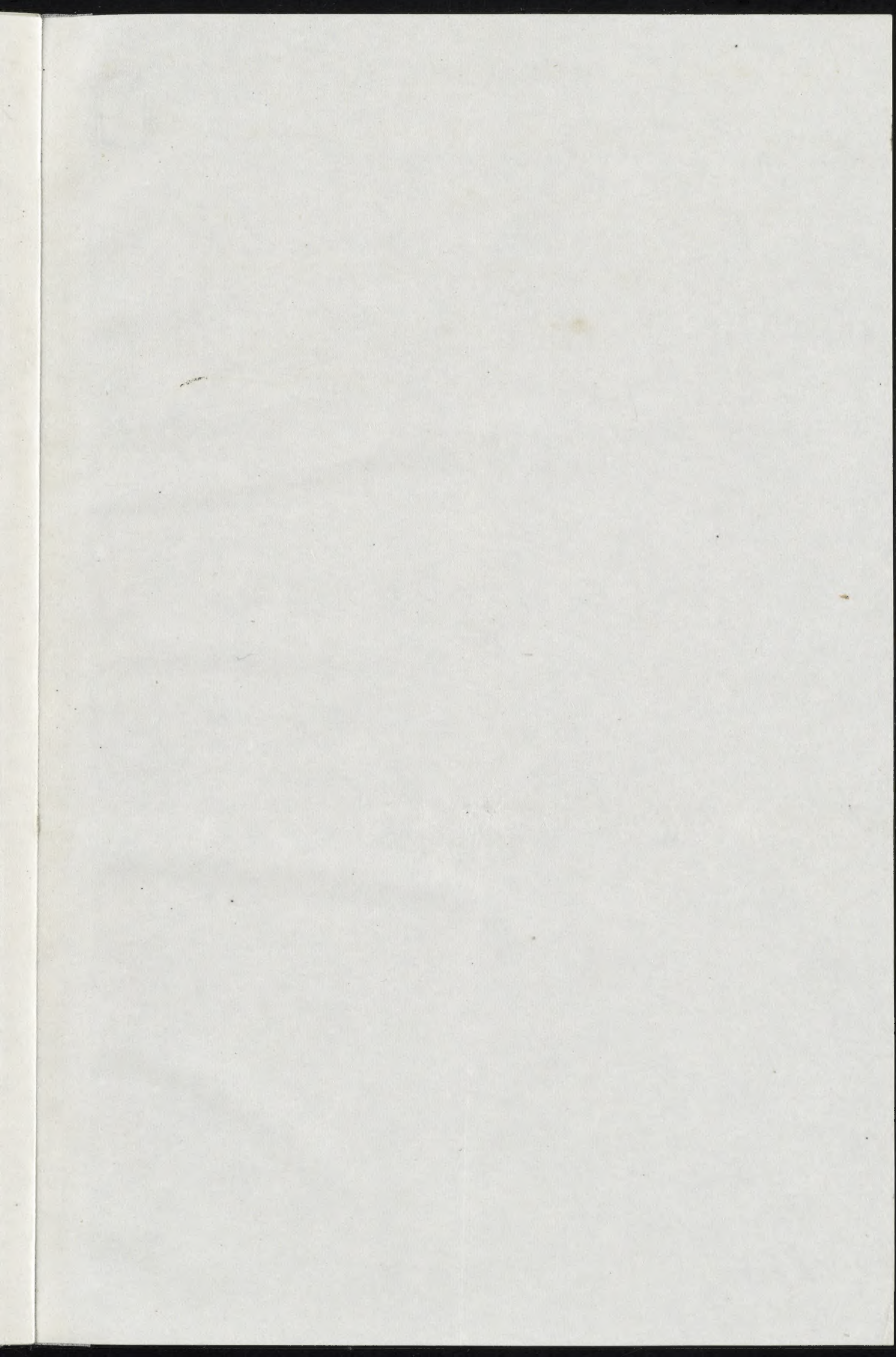


But I know you will pardon me,  
and accept the assurance that  
I remain, as ever,

Your attached friend,

Oliver Johnson.







C. J.  
N. Y., June 23, 1864.